



[Billing Code 3410-KD-U]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

Opportunity for Designation in the Alabama Area; Request for Comments on the Official Agency Servicing This Area.

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The designation of the official agency listed below will end on December 31, 2017. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by this agency to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agency: Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama).

DATES: Applications and comments must be received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION DATE IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit applications and comments concerning this Notice using any of the following methods:

- **Applying for Designation on the Internet:** Use FGISonline (https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISonline customer number and USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.
- **Submit Comments Using the Internet:** Go to Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are

detailed on the site.

- **Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:** Jacob Thein, Compliance Officer, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153
- **Fax:** Jacob Thein, 816-872-1257
- **Email:** *FGIS.QACD@usda.gov*

Read applications and comments: All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Thein, 816-866-2223 or *FGIS.QACD@usda.gov*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 7(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79(f)). Under section 7(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for no longer than five years, unless terminated by the Secretary, and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

Areas Open for Designation:

State of Alabama

Pursuant to Section 7(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act, the following geographic area in the State of Alabama is assigned to this official agency.

In Alabama

The entire State, except those export port locations within the State, which are serviced by Alabama.

Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons or governmental agencies may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic area specified above under the provisions of section 7(f) of the USGSA and 7 CFR §800.196. Designation in the specified geographic area in Alabama is for the period beginning January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2022. To apply for designation or to request more information, contact Jacob Thein at the address listed above.

Request for Comments

We are publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the Alabama official agency. In the designation process, we are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the designation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Jacob Thein at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

We consider applications, comments, and other available information when determining which applicants will be designated.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71-87k.

Randall D. Jones
Acting Administrator
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
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